

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution authorizing execution of an interlocal agreement with the City of Redmond and King County Regional Homelessness Authority to provide for expanded services to homeless individuals during severe weather events.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Resolution will authorize execution of the City's joint participation in an agreement for provision of expanded homelessness services by Eastside providers under contract with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority during designated severe weather events. The participating agencies are the City of Bellevue, City of Redmond, and King County Regional Homelessness Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10541

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Bellevue has a long history of close collaboration with other Eastside cities and regional entities on homelessness response. Homelessness is a complex challenge that is not limited to any one community and requires a regional approach to provide effective prevention and response services.

In 2009, a core workgroup of Eastside cities and partners worked together to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness had a safe place to sleep in the winter. The Eastside winter shelter system evolved from a weather-activated shelter with limited operations and capacity to established 24/7 emergency shelters across East King County, offering over 220 beds and an array of onsite services.

These shelters often operate at capacity throughout the year. As climate change accelerates, severe weather events—extreme heat, cold, and unhealthy air—occur with increasing frequency. East King County cities primarily rely on existing shelters to expand programming during severe weather events so that people experiencing homelessness have access to safe indoor shelter. This may include adding more bed capacity or expanding hours of operation. In the past three years, East King County shelters consistently average 100-120% occupancy during severe weather events. This places significant additional demands on shelter staffing and limited resources.

Regional emergency response planning for people experiencing homelessness falls under the purview of the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). KCRHA's Homelessness Emergency Response Plan identifies tiers for activating and activities to support safety and survival for unsheltered persons. Further, KCRHA's 5-year plan identifies the following related actions to improve the region's response:

- Identify and evaluate spaces for severe weather with cities to expand the number of indoor options during severe weather events.
- Consolidate all severe weather emergency response functions for those living unsheltered to support standardization across the region for a true regional response.

KCRHA supports regional severe weather response by providing notification of severe weather events, holding daily coordination calls among service providers and City staff during such events, and maintaining a list of agencies qualified to provide expanded services. Actual severe weather response costs for nonprofit providers of such services consistently exceed the available amount of funding. In 2025, KCRHA held a Request for Proposals to select from their pre-qualified list and established severe weather funding agreements with 16 agencies across the county. These proposals represented more than \$1.4 million in agency requests. KCRHA distributed approximately \$517,000 in available severe weather response funding provided by King County and the City of Seattle. Three Eastside agencies were included in this group: Friends of Youth, The Sophia Way, and PorchLight.

Last year, Redmond and Bellevue together began a conversation with KCRHA staff about the response needed on the Eastside during severe weather events, and both cities identified funding in the current budget cycle to support expanded severe weather services. In order to ensure these services are both provided locally and coordinated with the countywide response, Bellevue and Redmond developed an interlocal agreement (ILA) with KCRHA to direct the funds to address local needs. KCRHA's governing board gave its approval of the Severe Weather ILA in August.

Funds offered by Bellevue and Redmond under the Severe Weather ILA will be made available through contract amendments to the three agencies currently qualified for severe weather funding on the Eastside. Agencies will be able to backdate to July 1 for this funding source to cover 2025 costs. KCRHA will administer another procurement process to disburse 2026 funding. Additional Eastside agencies may qualify for funding under the 2026 procurement.

KCRHA will not retain any administrative or other fees under the Severe Weather ILA, ensuring that all Bellevue and Redmond funds go directly to support local agencies. The scope of this Agreement is strictly limited to severe weather response and does not obligate the city to broader financial or other support of KCHRA. KCRHA will provide quarterly reports to Bellevue on the status, progress and other key quantitative data related to the Severe Weather ILA.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Cities across the Eastside have taken a collaborative approach to homelessness response for many years. This approach is consistent with the City's emphasis on high performance government, community safety and health, and thriving people and communities. It specifically supports the following Comprehensive Plan Policies:

HS-23: In coordination with the region, support an intentional local community response to homelessness with housing, shelter and supportive services provided to all demographics.

HO-77: Support efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of people experiencing homelessness.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for Bellevue's portion of the severe weather response services is included in the 2025-26 budget. KCRHA already holds contracts with several service providers on the Eastside, including for limited severe weather services. To date, KCRHA's severe weather contracts have been exclusively funded by the City of Seattle and King County. By providing supplemental funding specifically dedicated to Eastside providers, Bellevue and Redmond are ensuring local shelters will have support for these emergency services. Upon execution of the ILA, Bellevue and Redmond will contribute identified funding to KCRHA for this purpose. The Agreement automatically renews each December 31 for one-year extensions unless terminated by any party. Future City of Bellevue contributions will be dependent on performance under the agreement and subject to consideration as part of the 2027-28 budget.

The total contributions are as follows:

Year	Budgeted Bellevue Contribution	Anticipated Redmond Contribution	Total
2025	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$45,000
2026	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$45,000

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of an interlocal agreement with the City of Redmond and King County Regional Homelessness Authority to provide for expanded services to homeless individuals during severe weather events.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Agreement for Homeless Services – Severe Weather Events
Proposed Resolution No. 10541

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A